

FOCUS

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KAMALA-JEAN GOPIE: A WOMAN WITH A MISSION

BY NEIL ARMSTRONG

Kamala-Jean Gopie's upbringing at a Quaker-led boarding school in St. Mary, Jamaica has imbued her with a mission of social justice. According to Ms. Gopie the Quakers' philosophy - "There's that of God in every person" instilled in her the vision that her life is one of sharing. She believes that every person has God within, no matter how vile some may appear to be. "For them to have life, they have to have God because life comes from God," she says. She seeks to find what is good although this does not mean that she is denying that there is not bad. According to her she does not focus on bad as her *raison d'être*.

It is her strong sense of social justice which led her to the Jamaican Canadian Association in 1974. This marked the beginning of her involvement in community and catapulted her into many other sectors. Within a year of being involved in the JCA she became the Executive Secretary. The next two years saw her as the presi-



Participants of the JCA Walk-a-thon, held on May 7, 1995.

dent and to date, she is the only female president in the JCA's history. She describes her tenure as being in a difficult time when there was no money around. The former JCA president believes that the JCA is a good place for people to become involved, develop skills, contribute, and move on to make room for other people to come through the ranks. She believes in engendering leadership in others and moving on. That is exactly what she has done. Her involvement is not limited to the Jamaican, black or West Indian community.

She is a governor of the University of Toronto, a board member of the National Ballet of Canada, The Canadian Club, Metropolitan Children's Aid Society, Ontario Housing Corporation, Harbourfront Corporation, and others. She was also the Canadian

president of an NGO international social service which led delegations to Geneva and Hong Kong. In 1981 Kamala-Jean ran for political office in Oakwood. At that time there were only about five minorities running and about twenty women. Her belief in change was her reason for entering politics. She wanted to change the composition of the white male dominated house at Queens Park. She wanted to see women and racial minorities at Queens Park. Kamala-Jean believes she paved the way for politicians such as Alvin Curling and Cover story continues others to enter politics

Last month, Ms. Gopie received a Harry Jerome Award for her community involvement. Interesting, she was one of the organizers of the first awards held in 1982. A group of

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On Sunday, April 23, 1995, minutes before boarding time, Audrey Smith was told by Air Canada officials at the Norman Manley Airport in Kingston Jamaica that immigration Canada would not allow her into Canada. Smith was coming to Canada for the purpose of having her allegation (against three police officers who she claimed strip-searched her on August 10, 1993) brought before a board of inquiry, appointed by the office of the police complaints Commission.

The reason given by the airline was that Audrey Smith was not who she say she was, in other words she was an impostor. Audrey Smith came to Canada four times before. This was to be her fifth visit to Canada. Audrey Smith was the name used before and after the incident of the strip-search. She has been to Canada on two occasions previously for her hearing and on each occasion it was postponed. Why would she choose to send someone else in her name when the Police Complaint Commission finally sought matters out and was definitely ready to proceed with the inquire.

Audrey Smith was allowed to come to Canada on Monday afternoon, April 24, 1995. She travelled in executive class she and her lawyer received an apology from immigration Canada with an explanation. According to immigration it was nothing more than a case of mistaken identity.

Regardless of the given explanation and the courtesy extended to Smith after the incident, Smith was made to look, feel and was treated like a common criminal in front of scores of other passengers.

One gets the feeling that was a deliberate attempt by immigration officials to prevent Audrey Smith from her pursuit of justice. One doesn't have to be smart to figure out this problem. You just need to ask a simple question. Why would anyone in their right mind would wish to assume the name Audrey Smith to disguise their identity? When that particular name and person was going to be the centre of attention for the next four or five days.

We cannot afford not to think that if the media wasn't on the alert to bring the matter to public attention, then Audrey Smith and lawyer might still be battling for her to get into Canada so that the inquire into her allegation against the police officers could get underway.

These embarrassments that Audrey Smith underwent, on both occasions have reflected badly on Canada just as they have on Audrey Smith. Every woman of colour around the world who have heard of these incidents must acknowledge that hard reality that they like Audrey Smith can be denigrated, humiliated and disgraced in Canada and even in their own country in areas where Canadian political authorities has the last word.

Audrey Smith gave her testimony to the board of inquiry and was cross examined by the lawyers representing the police officers on Tuesday and Wednesday of the week of April 24. She went back to Jamaica on that very weekend.

Many of us are happy that finally she had the opportunity to give her version of the event that took place on August 10, 1993, and now the rest of it is up to the lawyers and the board of inquiry to figure out and determine.

However, for Audrey Smith it is not that simple. She will have to live with the painful memory of the strip-search, if the allegation is true and also the embarrassment she endured when she attempted to come to Canada on April 23, 1995.

We are all hoping that Audrey Smith will be vindicated. But for her there will be no vindication instead she will be resentful and bitter towards the country that stripped her of her dignity, for the rest of her life.

WOMAN WITH A MISSION

Cover story continues from page 1
Jamaicans had decided to hold an event that would honour the achievement of black athletes at the Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane. Harry Jerome was to be guest of honour but he died before the event materialized. Although she had chaired the awards and worked with the awards committee for five years. Ms. Gopie felt a special tingle of excitement at the recent awards. According to her this was the first time she was sitting at the head table without the concerns of organizing the event. From past experience she would usually be too busy seeing that all went well.

Her sole desire is to continue to make a difference in whatever sphere she happens to be. Let us hail Kamala-Jean Gopie for her strong sense of mission.

32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY The Jamaican Canadian Association Services

Community Development

focuses on networking, sharing of information and resources with others in the interests of the community.

Settlement services provides information, orientation and settlement services to landed immigrants or holders of Minister's permits.

Caribbean Youth and Family Services provides: counselling, employment preparation, Socio-cultural support and leadership for Black youth aged 12 - 15, living primarily in the Jane-Finch neighbourhood. Advocacy and educational support to students. Integration Services for young offenders and coordinates the PAL program, which matches adult volunteers with young people in need of or seeking guidance.

Lawrence Heights Youth Program a satellite program, run by the Afrocentric Achievement Society, includes the "Shoot for a Career" project (combining sports with academics) and "Project ROJ" (Reading On the Job), which, integrates personal development with cultural reinforcement.

For more information on the above services, please contact: **The JCA Office**, 1621 Dupont Street, Toronto, Ontario M6P 3S8

Telephone: (416) 535-4476 or; **The CYFS office**, 2065 Finch Ave. W., Suite 102, Downsview, Ontario M3N 2V7

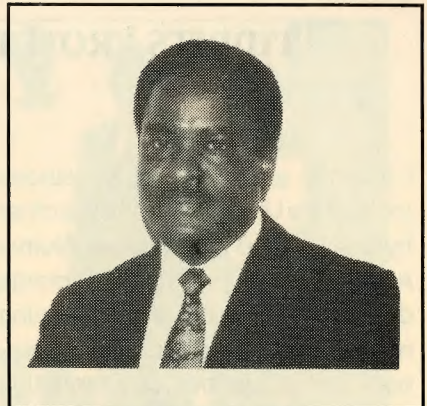
Telephone: (416) 740-1558

The major issue occupying my attention over the past four months has been the development, assisted by our consultants, of a proposal and business plan for the proposed new building. The task was completed and an extremely well developed proposal was forwarded to the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. The proposal provides for banquet hall with seating for 600 persons (700 if arranged theatre style), offices and recreation facilities, and parking for 80 cars. We can only hope that the government will look kindly on our record of funds management for over 30 years and be sufficiently impressed to fund the requested amount.

The construction activities would certainly provide many years of employment, and a new centre would generate enthusiasm among members as well as in the wider community. We have solicited letters of support from other organizations, many expressing their willingness to rent the proposed banquet hall as need arises. I thank all our sister agencies for their expressions of confidence and support. Also, the proposed building has limited space for commercial rental; this would provide a constant source of additional income.

With respect to our Dupont Street building, there has been some recent indication of interest to purchase. We have not yet had an offer that meets our minimum price level, but are hopeful that a sale can be negotiated in the near future.

The entire process of selling, building new, and relocating requires a fair amount of visioning. Yes, we can settle with what we have, avoid further expenses and hope for the best. This inaction would be undoubtedly stifle our growth. Our offices are crowded and we owe it to our staff to



Karl R. Fuller, JCA's President

provide an improved physical environment. The needs of our volunteers are not being adequately met; and as leaders, we must take positive steps to change that inadequacy into an environment that inspires and motivates to greater community services. The steps which we have taken are aimed at enhancing our services, both now and for years to come. We are a proud people and I can well imagine that a new and improved centre will add greatly to our own feeling of well-being, and enhance our capacity to serve others.

The Annual General Meeting is May 28, 1995. I am looking forward to a good attendance. I have begun to feel saddened by the loss of some of our Board Members who will not be seeking re-election. On your behalf, I express sincere thanks for their priceless contributions to community well-being and to the growth of the J.C.A. I look forward to working with those who will join the leadership ranks. Thanks to all of our members and staff for making JCA a shining star.

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 28/95

1 p.m. Sharp

1621 Dupont St.

InFocus

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TIDBITS FROM THE FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, ERMA COLLINS

THE LAW AND BOARD MEMBERS

I recently attended two workshops (one by the United Way and the other by the Alliance of Jamaican Alumni Associations) that had segments dealing with how the laws governing non-profit groups affect board members. What are bits of information that are worth sharing with you? Did you know that, legally, *it is the directors who have the ultimate responsibility to run the organization*? Did you know that one advantage of incorporating an organization is to limit the liabilities of members and directors? Did you know that *despite the limiting of liabilities, officers and directors are personally liable for up to six months of unpaid wages to employees, and for any remittances owing to Revenue Canada*, should the association go bankrupt because of the actions or lack of action on the part of directors? Did you know that the courts hold directors (not members) liable if it is the directors' negligence that has caused a financial problem? Board members have two kinds of legal duties: **fiduciary and duty of care**. The *"fiduciary duty"* of a director is to act honestly, in good faith, loyally, and in the best interest of the corporation, including disclosing all information that could contribute to a conflict of interest. The *"duty of care"* requires that a director exercise the care, diligence, and skill that a reasonably prudent person could exercise in similar circumstances. This includes a *"duty of care"* to other directors, especially where the director knows or ought to have known that his/her conduct will subject another director to risk of special harm or damage. But get this. **The courts have dealt with cases and established precedents which say that**

persons with special skills and experience may be held to a higher "duty of care" standard than others on the same board. For example, an accountant on the board would have greater obligations than other members of the board to see that financial matters are in order. What can members do to enforce this *"duty of care"*? Members can sue

directors; members can bring injunctions to stop the actions of directors; members can report breaches of trust to the Office of the Public Trustee; they can also report any breaches of trust to the Ministry of the Attorney General or to the Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs or to Revenue Canada.

Continues on next page >>>

UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Haari Abou Korrat

For the fiscal year 94/95, JCA provided services to 11,387 persons. These stats do not include persons who were provided with information and assistance by telephone or youth serviced by the JobsOntario Youth Program.

For the first time last year, we implemented summer hours at the agency. It went so well that we will repeat it again this year, commencing June 5th - September 1, 1995. Office hours are as follows: Monday-Thursday 8:30-5:30 p.m. and Fridays 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

JOY PROGRAM

The JobsOntario Youth Program got underway May 1, 1995. Rohan Robinson will manage the project, assisted by (5) five co-ordinators. There has been an overwhelming response from students. We have over 420 resumes on file. Many of these applicants will be disappointed as we are committed to placing only 220 applicants this year. As usual, the office staff will be very busy with this program, so we ask that you make in advance any special re-

quests you may have for the summer months.

ANTI-RACISM OUTREACH

For the next (6) six months, starting May 15, 1995, we will be conducting workshops and networking with the community for participation in this project. The end result of this project will be to develop and educate members of the community to deal with racism: how to respond to racial slurs, addressing systemic barriers of racism, and accessing resources. A module will be developed at the end of the program for future use by members of the Black community.

DRUG AWARENESS OUTREACH

Beginning July 17, 1995 we will also be conducting a series of workshops and educational seminars on Drug Prevention; directed toward youth and family members involved with drugs. The project is being funded under the Drug Abuse and Prevention Program by the City of Toronto at intervals over the next year. Volunteers would be welcome for either of these two programs.

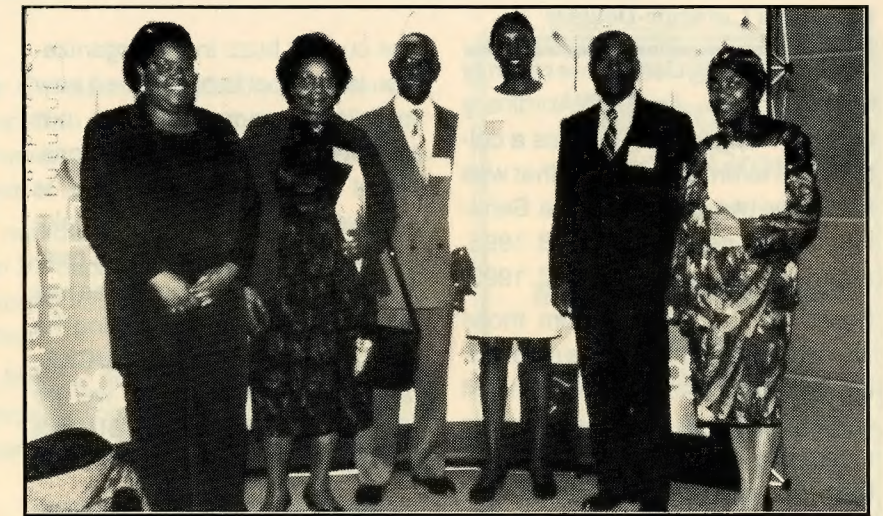
Committee Reports

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SCARBOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION:

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY

On April 19, the Scarborough Board of Education had an open house entitled *"Focus on Current Educational Issues."* According to the speakers at a forum on the Safe Schools Policy, zero tolerance is working. Incidents of violence are down dramatically. There is an off-site program for expelled students, and those who feel rehabilitated can apply to be reinstated in their previous schools. The speakers (a principal, a vice-principal, a school psychologist, a caretaker, a department head, a student, a community member, and a management person all said that the Board has been enhancing or developing preventative measures. There are programs dealing with school watch, conflict resolution, peer support, community police on the premises, supervision of athletic events, child abuse, drug education, children living in violent environments, safety patrols in elementary schools and walkie-talkies in high schools, as well as visitors-to schools identity badges. They indicated that the Scarborough Board is currently developing a Racial Harassment Policy and a Sexual Harassment one, among others mandated by the Ministry of Education and Training, and that the new policies will be implemented in September of 1995. Apparently the Board is fully aware of the diversity in the schools and is working hard at dealing fairly with all students. However, when I asked a question to see if they understood that sometimes the teachers and/or curriculum can be causes of dissatisfaction that could lead to frustration and anti-social behaviour, the issue was completely skirted. I can only hope that despite the public avoidance of a discussion of teacher racism and curriculum exclusion, that those responsible for policy development understand all the issues.



Recipients of the Ministry of Citizenship Volunteer Award, From left Natalie Wilson, Amy Nelson, Alexander Russel, Eunice Graham, Bruce McDonald and Juanita Thompson.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

By Herman Stewart

1994-1995 has been a very busy year for the Membership Committee. We sponsored a number of membership-related activities which were very successful.

Membership Appreciation night continues. Our last one was on Friday, April 7. Based on feedback from members, everyone had a good time. Our next Appreciation Night will be June 9. *Don't Miss It.* You will certainly have a good time with old friends and get the opportunity to make new ones.

Visitation Group: We are continuing to visit members who are sick or shut in at home. It is a service that is needed and welcome by those we have visited so far. If you know of someone whom we should visit, please let us know. We are also interested in additional members for this group. The commitment is one Sunday afternoon per month.

Summer Picnic:

Sunday, July 9, 1995



Place: Bronte Creek Park

Due to high increase in costs the board has decided not to go out of town this year. We will car pool to Bronte Creek Park.

Registration will be available at the annual general meeting on Sunday, May 28, and thereafter at the JCA Office.

Membership Forum: Our last forum with the new Police Chief went well. We are looking at doing the next one on Education Reform (Royal Commission on Learning Report). We will keep you posted.

Volunteer Awards: This year seven members received the Ministry of Citizenship volunteer award. Congratulations to Alex Russell, Amy Nelson, Juanita Thompson, Eunice Graham, Everton Cummings, Bruce McDonald and special congratulations to our "youth" recipient, Natalie Wilson.

Committee Report

By Sandra Carnegie-Douglas

The Fundraising Committee recently hosted Brawta - An EXTRAordinary Cultural Happening. This was a cultural and talent competition that was held over two months with a Semi-Finals show held on March 18, 1995, and the Finals held on April 22, 1995.

Based on the reviews from those who attended, Brawta was a resounding success. Of course, the highlight of the event was the young people competing in their respective repertoire of poetry/drama, vocals and dance. The enthusiasm and skill that were demonstrated by the contestants were inspiring. Members who attended the event were encouraged by the turnout youths at the event and there was strong support for us to do a repeat performance of **Brawta**. I would like to applaud the winners of the competition. Vocals: Wayne Tennant (1st Place), Lori-Ann Williams (2nd Place), and Red Dog (3rd Place); Poetry/Drama: Dionne Robertson (1st Place), Jonathan Howell (2nd Place), and Soft Touch (3rd Place).

Brawta was also organized as a fundraising effort and on that basis we solicited sponsorship and contributions from just about everyone. I would personally like to extend my gratitude to all the guest artists who performed pro bono: Major P, Heritage Singers, Simbaa, Karen St. Louis, Phyllis Walker, Afua Cooper, Donovan Fuller, etc. Special thanks to Denise and Allan Jones, individual members, staff and committees of JCA, families and friends who have contributed money, gifts, time, energy and ideas to make the event a reality.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Committee is planning a number of activities to be completed within the next year. As you may be aware,

the current buzz in the organization is our goal to purchase a new building to accommodate our growing needs and aspirations. What that means, of course, is that we need **BIG BUCKS** to make our goals and aspirations a reality. The fundraising committee has the challenging task of leading the drive to achieve the **BIG BUCKS**, and if that's not enough, we are expected to raise the **BIG BUCKS** by March 31, 1996!!!

I have never been one for pessimism and I am a firm believer in taking on challenges. Furthermore, I know that our solid membership base will play a critical role in helping us achieve and surpass our goal. How much **BIG BUCKS** do we need? A mere \$250,000.00 Now, some will say and some have said, "You can't do it", or "JCA can do it." Now, that's a challenge for the Fundraising Committee and a challenge for the organization; and as the saying goes, "never challenge a Jamaican."

The Fundraising Committee has taken on its task and is forging ahead. We have established a theme for the fundraising drive for the building; it is called "**Building For our Future**." This theme has a number of symbolisms for JCA. It symbolizes building in terms of a physical structure, our strength as an organization, our strength as a community. It symbolizes the future in terms of the progressiveness of the organization, changing population of our community, and its impact on JCA. Finally, it symbolizes our identity as an organization, community and as individuals.

Here is how you can participate and contribute:

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Membership Pledge Drive

Through this drive members and friends make a commitment to pledge \$250.00 for 1 year to JCA's "**Building For Our Future**." The one year period officially started from March 1, 1995, through March 31, 1996. The contribution can be made in lump sum payment or small payment plan that is manageable for you. All monetary contributions are tax-deductible.

JCA Coin Boxes - We have distributed coin boxes with JCA's logo in retail and commercial businesses across Metro Toronto and Peel Region. Please encourage friends, neighbours, work colleagues and families to deposit a contribution in the coin boxes.

Annual Walkathon - By the time this publication of *In Focus* is in your home, we would have held this year's walkathon (May 7, 1995). This is our annual walkathon that has been in place for the last 13 years as a primary fundraising activity.

In addition to the committee's efforts, individual members from across the organization are also coming together to plan unique events and activities to raise funds to put towards the building fund. We strongly encourage everyone to take initiative to plan and implement activities to help us reach our goals.

These are some of the activities that we have implemented to get us on our way to achieve our goals. You will be hearing from us in the near future as we get our phone-a-thon underway to promote the **Membership Pledge Drive**.

The Fundraising Committee continues to seek your support and contributions at all times. We accept the following:

\$\$\$\$\$(big bucks); Time; Skills/Ideas; and other appropriate contributions. Please call us at 535-4476 and make a contribution. **Nuff Respect!!!**

Committee Reports

May 1995 InFocus 7

By Ms. Amy Nelson

As a founding member of the Jamaican Canadian Association and one who has worked consistently with the Association for the last thirty years, I am calling for the renewed interest from members so that we can assume with greater responsibility and the challenges of acquiring a new centre.

The current building has been for a number of years the focal point for community events. We have out grown it's capacity; hence, we need larger accommodations. Therefore, I am imploring you as members and friends to become more involved in the Association.

I am particularly interested in ensuring that our new location will encompass all the things that will attract the young people of our community. That is to say, the Centre must be culturally appropriate and has various recreational amenities.

To make the above a reality the support is needed; I am really hoping that I can count on yours.

WE...AS A PEOPLE

By Olive Steele

I have heard it said often times that we lack the skill, knowledge and ability to be self-reliant and independent.

Therefore, it is probably easy for one to expound about what blacks should or should not do in order to achieve in our various communities; the reality is, very few of us are given the opportunity or even permitted to move forward in meaningful ways, to any great extent.

Some people in our community, in this modern age, still talk about blacks and slaves in the same breath; still think of us as the last and the lowest group in some society; still consider us racially abused and exploited because we are perceived as doing little for ourselves culturally, economically, and politically. The fact of the matter is, this society in which we choose to live knocks us back to the ground everytime we try to raise our standards to higher levels, and everytime our aspirations take us to heights that give us equal footing, thus making our voices less audible. Nevertheless, many of us are reluctant to criticize blatant inequities for fear of losing credibility which we worked long and hard to amass.

To understand our predicament, one has to look at our past. Each one of us has some knowledge, however limited, of our history and how difficult it has been to gain respect. For as long as white nations are having to rescue and save black nations from starvation, death, mass exodus (as recently occurred in Rwanda), our community, will never find salvation in our African roots.

I resent the opinion which suggests that if Blacks are ambitious human beings, then why don't they do for themselves like others. There is no doubt that we are an ambitious breed, have done for our selves like others, and every black brother and sister should be recognised for his/her contribution to the improvement of our race.

It may seem difficult at times as we continue to strive towards higher goals, but we have done so for generations and will continue to do so for generations to come...let's press on.

Caribbean Canadian Seniors Group

1621 Dupont Street
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THE ONTARIO BREAST SCREENING PROGRAM

By Linda Levstern

Breast cancer can strike anyone, but women fifty and older are most at risk.

For many years, women with breast cancer either died or had a large portion, if not all of their breast removed because the cancer had spread before it was discovered.

Nowadays, mammograms and breast examinations can detect cancer when it is a small lump called a tumour. These lumps can be removed without harming the breast. And when breast cancer is detected early the chances of survival are very good.

All women fifty and over should have a mammogram every two years and examine themselves monthly.

Two years ago Sheila Raymond saw a promo for the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP) on television. "It suddenly hit me that I should get screened just to make sure everything is okay, so I made an appointment. I didn't have to ask my doctor because a referral is not required."

She remembers her good impression of the clinic when she called and "a warm voice" answered all her questions and explained the program. "I was told that before having a mammogram, a trained nurse examiner would give me a breast examination and teach me self examination. And I was really surprised to hear that I would be getting a copy of the test results in the mail. It was very reassuring to know that I could actually see the results and not have to wait for my doctor's office to call."

The Ontario Breast Screening Program has clinics across Ontario and there are three in Toronto. Each is staffed by nurses and doctors who are committed to providing the very

best care and support to all women in friendly and comfortable surroundings.

"It's not a clinical setting," explains Sheila; "it's not like walking into a hospital for a test where straight away you're thinking something must be wrong. There is none of that anxiety. And another difference is that the entire staff is female who understand how other women feel. Everything is done in a very considerate way, even the gowns are specially designed so you don't feel half naked."

The experience was so positive that before she left the clinic she signed up as volunteer and now speaks to many women's groups about the Ontario Breast Screening Program.

Sheila's mother, Mrs. Berthel Smith, who is 72 years old and "proud of it" shares her daughters high opinion of the program which she found "positive" and "helpful".

She believes that like herself many older black women have never had a breast examination because they feel uncomfortable with a male doctor. But with the female examiner at the clinic, Mrs. Smith felt at ease and relaxed.

She hopes other women will get screened but knows that women won't go unless they make the decision themselves. "Sheila told me about the program and wanted me to go but she didn't nag me about it. She knew I had to make the decision myself. And I did."

The Ontario Breast Screening Program invites all women fifty and over to participate in this program. If you have already had a mammogram somewhere else but are interested in this program call for information. It's time to take care of yourself!

QUESTIONS

If I'm over fifty how often do I need a mammogram?

A mammogram needs to be taken every two years. But remember you need to also examine yourself monthly.

What is a mammogram?

A mammogram is an x-ray used to detect breast tumours.

Are mammograms safe?

Yes they are safe. Modern mammography equipment produces extremely low amounts of radiation. From a risk standpoint, the risk of having a mammogram is as low as travelling 400 miles by air or driving 60 miles in a car.

Are mammograms painful?

No, but some women feel a slight discomfort for a few seconds.

Does the size of the breast matter?

No.

I go to a medical lab to get a mammogram. How is the Ontario Breast Screening Program different?

The Ontario Breast Screening Program is different because women get more than just a mammogram. They are also given a breast examination and taught self examination. Doctor's referrals are not required and clients get a copy of their test results in the mail.

For more Information or to arrange an Appointment, please call:

North York Women's Screening Centre: 512-0601

Scarborough Women's Screening Centre: 298-2626

Toronto Women's Screening Centre: 928-2016

Media Coverage

WHITHER GOEST THE GOVERNMENT OF NELSON MANDELA?

BY NEIL ARMSTRONG

"I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back at the distance I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom comes responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended". Long Walk To Freedom; The autobiography of Nelson Mandela.

How aptly Nelson Mandela describes the task ahead for his government.... "the long walk is not yet ended." On April 27, last year twenty-three million South Africans went to the polls in the country's first one-man, one-vote multiparty elections. The African National Congress emerged the party to form the government and Nelson Mandela, the country's first black president. At this inauguration on May 10, of last year, Mandela described the fear of his party as the achievement of political emancipation. While all this was being said, I pondered on the help the Caribbean region could give the new South Africa. This was the question I posed to former Prime Minister, Michael Manley who led the largest ever Election Observer Group assembled by the Commonwealth. His reply was that the Caribbean could provide the human resources in areas of education and technical know-how. Indeed, our

very way own former Director of Elections, Noel Lee, was there on South African Soil helping with the election machinery.

In my coverage of the election for Radio Jamaica, it was interesting to speak with the Political Editor of the New Nation newspaper, Enoch Sithole and hear of the great feeling of liberation among blacks, Mandela describes it like this:

"The images of South Africans going to the polls that day are burned in my memory. Great lines of patient people sneaking through the dirt roads and streets of towns and cities; old women who had waited half a century to cast their first vote saying that they felt like human beings for the first time in their lives; white men and women saying they were proud to live in a free country at last. The mood of the nation during those days of voting was buoyant. The violence and bombings ceased, and it was as if we were a nation reborn."

What has happened since Mandela became the President of South Africa? How can one assess the past year? The task is not easy. I daresay it is too early to give an assessment. Last year there were some who were forecasting gloom and doom. They said the black majority would want too much to happen too quickly to improve their economic and social status. They said the white minority would not willingly share its wealth with the black majority. Mandela is well aware of the task ahead. He says "there are many hills to climb." No transformation is expected in the twinkling of an eye.

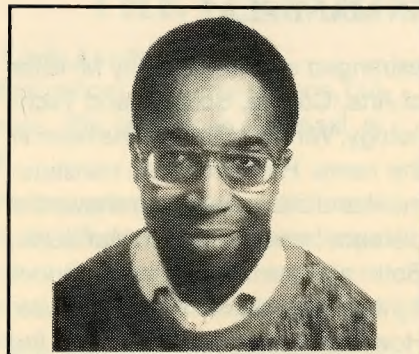
Within the past months, Mandela's

estranged wife and Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, Winnie Mandela has been in the news. Her dismissal, reinstatement and dismissal again shows the distance between the two Mandelas. Both are strong-headed freedom fighters committed to the same cause. However, according to reports in the media, Winnie had embarrassed government by criticizing its pace of social reforms. she is widely popular among poor blacks and wants to see the pace of social reforms quickened. The sacking of Winnie is only another obstacle in the life of one who is accustomed to many difficulties. In writing about his estranged wife, Nelson Mandela says "her given name was Nomzamo, which means one who strives or undergoes trials, a name as prophetic as my own". [In Xhosa, the colloquial meaning of Mandela's name "Rolihlahla" is "troublemaker."]

I have no doubt that there are many rivers to cross for the Mandela government. We should not expect too much to happen too quickly. It is not easy to govern twenty-three million people of different colour and class backgrounds.

**Black Cap
(416) 971-7588**

**The Black Coalition
for A.I.D.S
Prevention is a
coalition of
Black Community
Organizations
who come together
to address
the issue of
A.I.D.S in our
communities.**



GORDON JAMES

I came to this country in 1966 from Trinidad with my parents; I started school here. I went to York University in 1981-85, obtaining my Honours degree in Psychology. I enrolled in the B.S.W. program at York in 1985, but I took a leave of absence in 1987. I returned to the B.S.W. program in 1989 and did a Practicum in 1991. At around the same time, I enrolled in the Adler Program of Professional Psychology in 1990. I received a M.A. in Psychology in December 1994. My interests include tennis, badminton and reading science fiction novels. I hope my stay at the Jamaican Canadian Association is a long and rewarding one.

NOTICE

The Jamaican Canadian Association
(Lawrence Heights Office)
Presents a Talent Showcase,
featuring local talent
from the Greater Toronto
Area. Music by the #1 original
sound "BLACK SUPREME",
Friday May 26/95
5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.
at the Lawrence Heights
Community Centre,
#5 Replin Road.
All interested participants and crews
should contact Janet Millington.
For more information and Talent
Show registration forms at
(416) 785-7920.

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES - 1995
ACTIVITY DATE

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT	JUNE	09,	1995
SUMMER PICNIC	JULY	09,	1995
INDEPENDENCE BALL	JULY	29,	1995
FLAGRAISING AND CHURCH SERVICE	JULY	30,	1995
SENIORS' DINNER	SEPT.	17,	1995
MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION NIGHT	OCT.	13,	1995
EDUCATION CONFERENCE	OCT./NOV.		1995
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY	DEC.	10,	1995
NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER & DANCE	DEC.	31,	1995

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Jamaican Canadian
Association
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, May 28/95
1 p.m. Sharp
1621 Dupont St.
Agenda includes the
election of officers to the
Board of Directors

The Carribean Canadian Seniors Club
Appreciation Dinner
Honoring Ms. Amy Nelson

Sunday, June 25th, 1995
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Place: 1621 Dupont Street (West of Lansdowne)
Guest Speaker: Mr. Bromley Armstrong
Special Guests: Ms. Margarietta St. Juste; Jamaican Consul General
Ms. Jean Augustine, Liberal M.P.
Mr. Stanley Grizzle, Former Citizenship Court Judge
Elaine Ziemba, Ontario's Citizenship Minister
Tickets \$20.00 Advance Sales Only
To Purchase Tickets Please call:
(416) 535-4476 or ((416) 492-1971 or (416) 261-0407
No Reservations Please
Proceeds To JCA Building Fund

**THE VOTE, OUR MOST
POWERFUL WEAPON**

Jeffery S. Patterson, 2nd V.P.

Results of the last National Election clearly show that the electorate have had it with self-serving, dictatorial politicians. Indeed, the insensitivity, lack of understanding and total disregard for the concerns of the people displayed by these individuals, resulted in the cleansing of a political system that was submerged in the mire of power and deceit.

The imminent Provincial Election presents the opportunity for all Black and other Non-white people to, once again, become politically involved. This means reacquainting ourselves with the parties, meeting the candidates and working for them. In numbers, we are a force to be reckoned with that can make the difference between winning and losing an election. To make inroads into the political system and decide who will best represent us, it is imperative that we carefully scrutinize the candidates and parties and elect the ones that best share and promote the interest of Blacks and other Non-whites. While performing this task, we should always be cognizant of the under-representation of non-white candidates in the Ontario Parliament. The time is here for a new mood and a new agenda of priority concerns. The failure of our Black Youths in the education systems, the high unemployment in the non-white community and the constant **STRUGGLE** for equality and justice pervade the Province and demands our action. Let us **FIGHT BACK** with our most powerful and effective weapon, **OUR VOTE.**

**COME
GROW
WITH US**

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Office Of The High Commissioner
For Jamaica

To: All Association Residents

From: High Commissioner Maxine E. Roberts

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, in conjunction with office of the Prime Minister, is again seeking to identify and locate qualified Jamaican residents abroad, especially those with expertise in the fields of science and technology, medicine, engineering, mining, energy and agricultural development, with a view to entering this information in the Ministry's skills bank.

The Jamaican High Commission is therefore requesting your assistance in circulating this information to members of the Jamaican Community.

As there is a shortage of skilled manpower in the fields mentioned above, the skills bank would enable the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and the office of the Prime Minister to locate Jamaicans with specialized skills who may be prepared to return to Jamaica on short term contracts or to share their knowledge and expertise by way of papers, telegraphing or publications which they have contributed. Those who may wish to relocate to Jamaica on a permanent basis would be accommodated within the returning residents' programme and made aware of any other special incentives or benefits which may be offered.

There is also a special interest in identifying Jamaicans who may be attached to scientific research centers.

Any further queries or requests for information should be directed to the Returninig Residents' Facilitation Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affair and Foreign Trade in Jamaica at the following address:

Ministry Of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
21 Dominica Drive, P.O. Box 624
Kingston, Jamaica

Your kind co-operation in making fellow Jamaicans aware of this facility would be greatly appreciated.

**Jamaican Canadian
Association
Annual General
Meeting
Sunday, May 28/95
1 p.m. Sharp
1621 Dupont St.
Agenda includes the
election of officers to
the Board of Directors**

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

BY: SHEILA RAYMOND, Chairperson of Nominating Committee

The nominating committee wishes to inform our members that the following vacancies are open on the Jamaican Canadian Association's Board of Directors. We are searching for qualified, committed volunteers to fill these positions and become part of a progressive and vibrant organization.

Vacant Positions are as follows:

1st Vice President - 2 years • Executive Secretary - 2 years •
Assistant Secretary - 1 year

Chairpersons:

Education Committee - 2 years Building Committee - 2 years
Membership Committee - 2 years • Social Committee - 1 year

If you are interested or know someone who is, and need further information, please call JCA at (416) 535-4476 and leave message for the Chairperson Nominating Committee. The elections will take place at the JCA Annual General Meeting on May 28, 1995, at 1:00 p.m. at the Jamaican Centre located at 1621 Dupont Street.

Reminder:

In order to vote at Annual General Meeting, you must be a member in good standing as per JCA By-laws "A member in good standing shall be a person whose membership fee was paid for the previous financial year"; that is, 1994 fees paid by December 31, 1994. Please bring your 1994 membership card

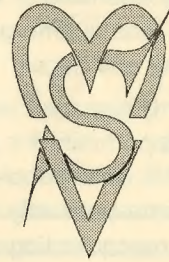
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or receipt with you to the meeting. If for any reason you paid your 1994 membership fees and did not receive a card or receipt, please contact Maxine Moodie at the JCA's office to verify your membership status before May 28, 1995, so you can exercise your voting privileges at the general meeting.

We look forward to seeing you on May 28, 1995, at the JCA Centre.

**COME
GROW
WITH
US**